In the Claims:

At page 48 and before claim 1, please delete the header appearing at line 1 and substitute therefor the following header:

a9 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Please substitute pending claims 4, 6, 7, 11-16, 18, 27 and 30-34 with the following claims 4, 6, 7, 11-16, 18, 27 and 30-34:

4. (Once amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more sequences whose expression or transcription product(s) is/are associated with the formation and/or maintenance of genomic imprints.

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6. (Once amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule includes a sequence of the FIE gene or FIS genes.

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7. (Once amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more sequences whose expression or transcription product(s) is/are capable of altering the degree of methylation of nucleic acid.

11. (Once amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the one or more regulatory sequences comprise a promoter sequence, or regulatory sequences or fragments therefrom.

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12. (Once amended) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the promoter is derived from the *Arabidopsis* AGL5 gene, the *Petunia* FBP7, the *Petunia* FBP11 gene, the *Arabidopsis BEL1* gene, the *Arabidopsis MEDEA* (*FIS1*) gene, the *Arabidopsis FIS 2* gene, the *Arabidopsis FIE (FIS 3)* gene, orthologs/homologues of any of these genes from other species or any promoter that drives expression that is restricted to cells within the female reproductive organs that contribute to the female germ line, preferably promoters from gynoecium-specific genes that are first expressed during early gynoecium development, preferably before the differentiation of individual ovules, and which maintain their expression until ovule differentiation is complete.

13. (Once amended) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the promoter is derived from the *Arabidopsis* gene *APETALA3,* the *Arabidopsis PISTILATTA* gene, the *Arabidopsis E2* gene, the *Arabidopsis APG* gene, homologues/orthologs of these genes from other species or any promoter that drives expression that is restricted to cells within the male reproductive organs that contribute to the male germ line, preferably promoters from stamen-specific genes that are first expressed during early stamen development, preferably before the differentiation of individual microsporocytes, and which maintain their expression until stamen differentiation is complete.

14. (Once amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the size of the endosperm is altered.

15. (Once amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein development of the endosperm is altered.

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16. (Once amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the degree of nucleic acid methylation is increased.

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18. (Once amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the degree of nucleic acid methylation is decreased.

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27. (Once amended) The use as claimed in claim 25 wherein the barrier results from failure in endosperm development.

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30. (Once amended) The use as claimed in claim 28 wherein the barrier results from failure in endosperm development.

31. (Once amended) A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 23 modified by any one or more of the features defined in claim 12.

32. (Once amended) A nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 23 which is in the form of a vector.

33. (Once amended) A plant cell including nucleic acid as defined in claim 23.

34. (Once amended) A transgenic plant or parts thereof comprising nucleic acid as defined in claim 23.

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